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KUZNETSK COMBINE TOPS 1950 GOALS; CONVERTS TO LOCAL ORES

/Rumbers in parentheses refer to the sources listed at the end.

The Kunnetsk Metallurgical Combine imeni Stalin completed the Five-Tear Plan for steel and rolled steel production in 3 years, and for pig iron in 32 years. The increase in production of pig iron, steel, and rolled products is substantially higher than the increase called for in the Five-Year Flan. This increase has been achieved without any addition to the combine's facilities. In 9 months of 1949, the average daily volume of steel smalled was 10 percent higher than the average daily volume of production planned for 1950. The expected production of pig iron in 1949 will exceed the 1950 goal by 9.5 percent. A new coke battery has been put into operation, but the combine will complete the Five-Year Flan for coke this year by using the old coke batteries.

Among the measures which the combine took to speed production was the reconstruction of two blast furnaces, considerably increasing their capacity. Difficult winter conditions were overcome and the blast furnaces are now able to maintain steady operations all year.

The introduction of ores from the Gornaya Shoriya mines necessitated new developments in the blast-furnace process. In comparison with the prewar period, the mining and utilization of local iron ore has increased several times. Gornaya Shoriya ore now considerably outweighs the use of Magnitogorsk cre in the combine. Miners are speeding production, having received new equipment, including large drills, and are now meeting their plans (1). By modernizing technology, the blast-furnace shop has achieved a coefficient of capacity utilization of the blast furnace of 0.9, which is equal to the coefficient achieved when the shop was using Magnitogorsk ore almost exclusively. Thus, those who predicted that the shop could not operate as successfully on local ores have been proved wrong (2). The role of local raw materials in the blast furnace charge has increased wrone than 100 percent in recent years and charging has been made completely automatic. The complex problems in converting to local fuel were worked out in the _capicol_1. The complex problems in converting to local fuel were worked out in the _capicol_1. The fact that in 1949 the daily volume of pig-iron production per cubic mater of furnace capacity is considerably higher than in 1948.

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The combine's steelworkers have also made great technological improvements with the subsequent production increases. The present recovery of steel per square meter of furnace sole is 100 kilogians higher than in 1945. The steel-smelting shop plans to convert to the use of welded buckets with a larger capacity than riveted buckets, and will increase the weight of each molt in crea-hearth furnaces by 15 tons. The rail-structural shop, standard-section steel shop, and others also have had production increases. Rolling-rill workers have achieved a world record in productivity (1). There was some feeling that a further increase in the output of commercial rolled steel was limited by the planned capacity of the blooming mill. However, the blooming mill in its second year is producing more than 20 percent above its planned capacity (2). Output of high-quality production has increased sharply. Output of first grade rails is now 96-97 percent as compared with 87 percent in 1945.

Labor productivity in the combine in 1989 increased 38 percent over 1946, including 48 percent in the blast-furnace shop. In 3 years 9 months, the saving from reductions in production costs above plan amounted to 100 million rubles. In 1948, the enterprise started to operate at a profit and realized 26.2 million rubles' profits (1).

By 28 October, the combine had completed its 10-month steel-smelting plan. Both open-hearth furnace shops are obtaining high recoveries of steel. In 26 days of October, steelworkers completed 140 high-speed melts (3).

SOURCES

- 1. Pravda, No 298, 25 Oct 49
- 2. Praváa, No 286, 13 Oct 49
- 3. Izvestiya, No 255, 28 Oct 49

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